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Judge allows for release of Trayvon Martin

MIAMI (AFP) - A US judge set \$150,000 bail yesterday and tight restrictions on the release of neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman, charged with second-degree murder over the high-profile shooting of unarmed black teen Trayvon Martin.

Zimmerman unexpectedly took to the stand and apologized directly to Martin's parents for taking the life of their son in an emotionally-charged case that has raised questions over racial profiling and sparked protest marches around the country.

"I am sorry for the loss of your son. I did not know how old he was. I thought he was a little bit younger than I am and I did not know that he was armed or not," Zimmerman, who is Hispanic, told the hearing in Sanford, Florida in his first public comments since the February 26 shooting.

Martin's parents were in the courtroom to hear Zimmerman's apology for shooting their 17-year-old son as he crossed through a gated community in Sanford -- in the words of the defense

"minding his own business."

Zimmerman, who was handcuffed, listened quietly through most of the tense proceedings as lawyers argued for and against allowing him to be released.

Judge Kenneth Lester then set bail at \$150,000 but imposed certain conditions on Zimmerman's release, including that he submit to electronic GPS tracking, a curfew and to periodically report to authorities.

"There is to be no contact with the victim's family. There is to be no possession of firearms, be they rifles, shotguns, handguns, pistols, revolvers, any type of firearm or destructive device. There is to be no consumption of alcohol."

The prosecution had argued that Zimmerman was a danger to the community and should be held without bond, or no less than a million dollar bond.

Authorities are seeking to put in place arrangements for Zimmerman, whose life has been threatened several times since the incident, to live outside Florida pending the trial.

International Earth Day is very special and significant!



Earth Day is celebrated globally on the 22nd of April every year!

On this Day many people around the world organize an activity to remind everyone that Mother Earth de-

serves our attention, care and protection. They use this day to make people more aware of the intrinsic value of the earth.

On Aruba, various organizations and individuals also

plan something in this regard. Either they plant trees, make objects from recycled material, do a walkathon in the rural areas, cleanup the beaches, etc.

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Santa Rosa gearing up for great open house and food market day

PIEDRA PLAT -- Santa Rosa, Aruba's Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Department, is inviting every citizen to come out and enjoy an unforgettable day in a typical Aruban ambience. They are gearing up for their Open House Day combined with the very popular Food Market of local produce to be held Sunday, April 29th from 10:00 o'clock in the morning through to 4:00 in the afternoon.

This planned Open House Day is in conjunction with International Earth Day and is intended to showcase what Mother Earth is producing for all of us to enjoy. The Open House Day promises to be better than all other Santa Rosa events.

The day will include a very varied program: presentation of the "Sodo y Cuero" group, the Masiduri Dance group, the Alma Folklorico group, an exposition of Santa



Rosa's livestock, a Horse Show, trips on a Pony, Clown

Keke and much more activities to delight the children.

There will be numerous information stands from different foundations dealing with the environment. The Serito di Chabelito mud house will be inaugurated to show how our forefathers lived.

Continued on page 5



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Aruba Tourism Authority preparing for 2012 Tourism Conference

ORANJESTAD -- Preparations are underway for Aruba to receive some 90 participants for this year's annual Aruba Tourism Conference, scheduled for April 23 to 26. Participants will be tour operators, airline companies, both local and international, hotel representatives who represent Aruba in the North American market, and of course ATA's own team.

The objective of the Aruba Tourism Conference (ATCA) is to reinforce the knowledge of Aruba to our executives and to improve relations with our partners, so as to lock in business that would benefit our island.

The opening ceremony will be Tuesday morning, April 24th at the Westin Aruba Resort. The Minister of Tourism, the CEO of ATA – Ronella Tjin-Asjoe, Airport Director – Peter Steinmetz, and AHATA CEO- James Heppel, will welcome all participants to this 2012 Annual Tourism Conference. Invited keynote speaker for the occasion is Dr. Robertico Croes who is expected to share some of the results of the Aruba Strategic Plan.

During the Conference the participants will have an opportunity to visit various hotels to view our hotel product.

As of Tuesday midday up to Wednesday they will open the 'Market Place' at the Westin Aruba Resort. This is where important networking takes place between local and international partners, and where new business opportunities are born for the next season.

What's more, participants will have ample opportunity to get to know the island through the different social activities and programs to be offered. On closing night there will be an interesting activity and dinner at the lovely Papiamentu Restaurant.

North America remains Aruba's most important and largest market. This is why this ATCA is such an important Conference for Aruba. Aruba Tourism Authority expects all our 2012 ATCA participants and visitors to really enjoy this year's conference! They wish all participants great success and a truly wonderful time on Aruba. Enjoy Dushi Aruba!

Aruba's new Penal Code includes particular focus on young people!

ORANJESTAD -- During deliberations on the actualized new Penal Code last Wednesday, several observations were made with reference to the section of the Code which is directed to young people. This section, related to young people, was received especially favorably with all legislators.

The Minister of Justice indicated that this is only one of the big differences between this Penal Code and the existing Code, which was introduced some 60 years hence. The new Penal Code includes a section directed to our young people and the different methods for dealing with them.

The Minister of Justice reported that the new measures outlined in the Penal Code are there to send a strong signal to our youth that justice is serious and that we can lead them to the right path. Along with this is the message that the possibility for incarcerating them always remains an option when they commit a



crime.

However, we will put them behind bars under a new regimen with the focus on their rehabilitation. The fortification of rehabilitation was initiated as this is an important organization which has a pivotal role in helping our young people who have fallen prey to crimes.

There is a special children's section in KIA, but

they are trying to create a much better separation system to prevent the young people from being influenced by more hardened criminals.

The new Penal Code also provides the opportunity for young people to receive TBS punishment. This means that any given young person could be placed at the disposition of the state and will be guided through an alternative punishment process rather than to be incarcerated. These measures in our Penal Code, according to the Minister of Justice, will help us to realize much better results in the future.

Soft drink cited as factor in N.Z. woman's death

WELLINGTON (AFP) - A New Zealand inquest has been told a woman's 10-liter (2.2 gallon) a day Coca-Cola habit may have contributed to her death, reports said yesterday.

A coroner's inquest was told Natasha Harris, a 30-year-old mother of eight from Invercargill in southern New Zealand who died in February 2010, drank huge amounts of the caffeinated beverage, Fairfax Media reported.

It said pathologist Dan Mornin told the inquest that he believed Harris died from cardiac arrhythmia and was

also suffering from low potassium levels and caffeine toxicity.

Mornin testified her excessive soft drink consumption probably contributed to her medical condition, along with poor nutrition, Fairfax reported.

Harris' partner Christopher Hodgkinson said she was addicted to Coke and the dead woman's mother-in-law Vivien Hodgkinson had called for soft drinks to carry health warnings, Radio New Zealand reported.



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New Buses soon to grace our streets to replace the giant buses

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba's public transport is getting ready to introduce many new changes, which they believe will significantly improve the service to the general public and the efficiency and solvency of the company.

In this context Arubus has purchased 15 new autobuses (the smaller 10/12 seats buses), and 16 new giant buses to improve their fleet of existing buses. They decided that for routes 5, 6, 7 and 8, they will eliminate the use of the big buses and instead use the autobuses on these particular routes. These routes historically are known to have

fewer passengers using the big buses; hence they cannot justify the use of the big buses on these routes.

Hence, as of July 1st, 2012, 15 new autobuses will replace the big buses on routes 5 to 8! These buses will also reach areas further into the community, where there is no public transport.

This decision is in response to the myriad of petitions from citizens who complain of having to walk far distances to get the bus or to return to their destinations. In this way, this decision will definitely contribute to a much better service to our community.

According to Arubus and the Minister of Transport, this new management of Arubus will in no way jeopardize our other autobus drivers (private), since these are existing routes of Arubus which are simply being replaced with smaller buses.

The Minister, who is currently abroad on a business trip for the government, deeply regrets the public demonstration of the private autobus drivers who went to City Hall to protest against the introduction of the 15 autobuses. He said, they could have simply requested a meeting with him so he could



have explained exactly how the situation is and show how their jobs are in no way being

jeopardized. He plans to meet with them upon his return next week.

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Weveriana Concert celebrates a very musical family

The name Wever holds a special place in the hearts of local music lovers, particularly of the melodic waltzes, tumbas, boleros and mazurkas that are considered a traditional part of Aruban culture. Cas di Cultura in Oranjestad was the venue for just such a sentimental concert, staged by Commission Weveriana on Thursday evening, April 19.

Maria Eusebia Wever
1923 - 1992



Mary Wever

Oswald Raymond Wever
7 di october 1939



Oswald Wever

The four musicians and composers honored were Rufo Inocencio Wever, co-composer of Aruba's national anthem, Maria Eusebia Wever, Oswald Raymond Wever and Jacobo Federico, (Toty) Arends, the son of Ana Wilhelmina Wever.

Rufo and Maria died in 1977 and 1992, respectively. All the composers are accomplished musicians, though Oswald is also a doctor, and devoutly pursued his passion despite a busy career.

Artists interpreting their work were: Lidwina Booi, Victor Camacho, Albert Croes, Livio Hermans, Flor Huygen, Ivan Jansen, Rachel Kraaijvanger, Vivian Lampe, Gerrald Martes, Hester Matthijssse, Mario Middendorp, Ebby Peterson, Emile Ponson, Wicha Ponson-Wever, Reginald Rafael, Gordiana Rozen-

Rufo Inocencio Wever
1917-1977



Rufo Wever

berg, Jose Sophia, Jack Tromp, Many Villasmil and Arlenne Wever-Croes. It was a full evening with 34 classic pieces

(Toty)

30 di december 1927



Toty Arends

performed, showcasing local talent as other performers and composers.

The evening was sponsored by UNOCA, SETAR NV, Banco di Caribe and Fantastic Gardens, and organized by the



Jack Tromp and Lidwina Booi sing Mi Aruba Stima

Commission Weveriana consisting of Herbert Diaz, Persey, Jeandor, Livio Hermans, Vivian Lampe, Joyce Pereira,

Willy Richardson, Irais Sankatsing-Nava, Oswald Wever and Vivian Wever.

by Rosallie Klein



Victor Camacho interprets Rufo Wever composition



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Santa Rosa gearing up...

Continued from page 1

You will enjoy a trips around the Santa Rosa complex and visit the different ungoing projects and our friendly animals at Cura Chabelito and Torito Zeus.

The afternoon will close out with the typical music of Tipico Cadushi Largo.

As usual there will be numerous stands with different local fresh produce such as: fresh meat, cheese, eggs, vegetables and fresh fruits, natural organic products...and much more!

Ofcourse, there will be many food stands with typical Aruban dishes and lots of delicacies for those with a sweet tooth. To quench everyone's thirst there will be Aruba's famous coconut water, lemon and lime juices, fruit mixtures and a bar replete with all sorts of juices, wines, and cold beers.

There will also be large tents where people can sit in the shade and relax and enjoy their fruits and meals and the entertainment.

For those having difficulty walking; come early, to find seating under the shades or inside. It is also advisable to come in groups to avoid too many cars for the limited parking space around the area. Santa Rosa is also appealing to those who will be setting up stands, to come early to set up. They will not allow vehicles to come unto the premises after 9:00am to load or unload.

Everyone is cordially invited to come out and enjoy a day at Santa Rosa, shopping for fresh fruits, vegetables, meat and many other local produce in an enjoyable festive ambience. For any questions or other inquiry, contact Santa Rosa at Tel.585-8102.

International Earth Day is very special and significant!

Continued from page 1

We need to learn how to behave as good citizens, conscious of our important role in caring for and protecting our natural environment - the earth. We need to develop a new respect for nature and our natural resources. Planet earth has been loaned to us and we must treat it well so that future generations can also enjoy it.

How can we help to protect our marine life, for example? Here are a few tips to do this: do not eat those

species that are endangered of extinction or that are being protected, such as the Conch and Turtle eggs. If you can't resist eating sea foods, limit yourself to those you know are in abundance and are sustainable.

Use plastic material as little as possible to prevent our ocean from becoming contaminated with plastic (bags). Animals can confuse plastic for food and can get fatally caught in plastic items.

Use water and electricity

conscientiously and moderately. The more water and energy we use, the more we contribute to the pollution of the air and sea with the consequence of climactic changes. Climactic changes have dramatic and disastrous consequences for marine life, such as the temperature of the water rises and the water level may also rise, which may cause death to corals.

Participate in coastal clean up campaigns. These efforts help reduce the amount of de-

bris collected which can damage our flora and fauna.

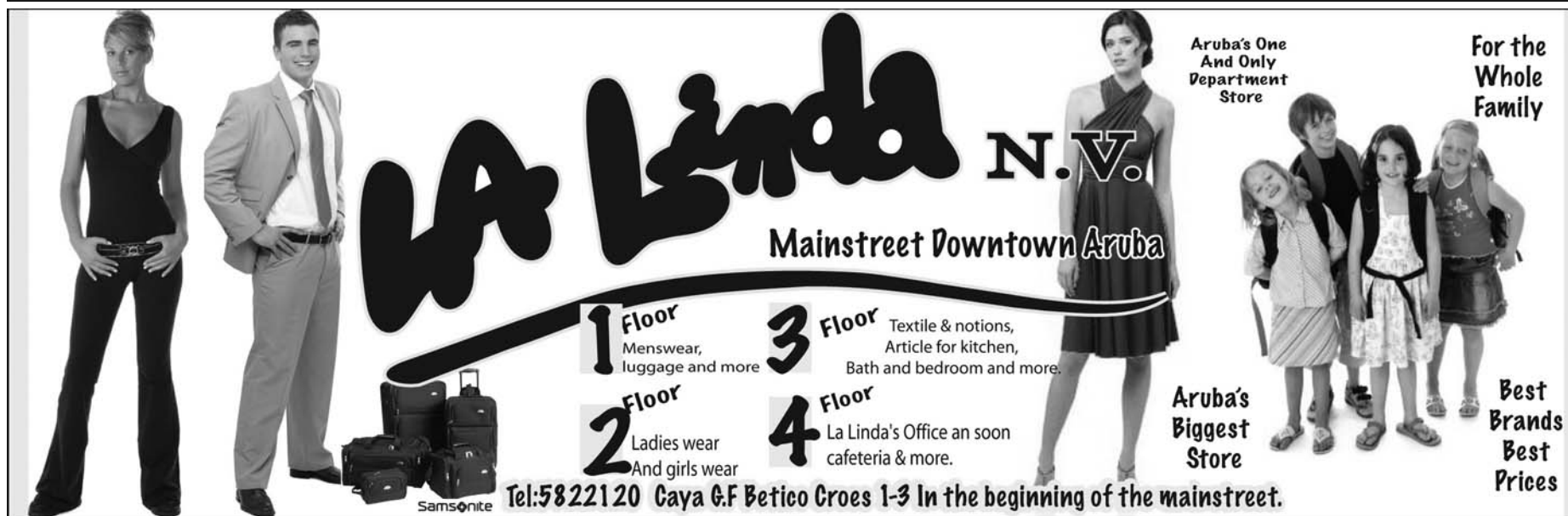
Do not throw used fishing lines and hooks in the ocean when you no longer have any use for them. You can understand how these may be fatal traps for marine fauna and could kill our marine life.

Our Public Health and Environmental Departments are reminding our community to celebrate Earth Day by becoming active in some activity to conserve and protect our environment. Teach oth-

ers who may not know the value of Mother Earth. Teach children that they too must help conserve and protect nature so they can enjoy it for many generations.

Happy Earth Day to everyone, begin today to conserve and protect Mother Earth!

You too should have a heart for Mother Earth!!



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US Military: More suspects in sex scandal

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US military said yesterday it is now investigating 11 service members linked to the growing sex scandal in Colombia that has rocked the president's Secret Service.

The Pentagon had initially said five troops were implicated and later said there were 10 suspects.

"I can tell you now, based on an update by the investigating officer (IO) to the commander of SOUTHCOM (Southern Command), the number of US service members being considered by our investigating officer is 11," Colonel Scot Malcom said in an email to reporters.

There were six suspects from the US Army's 7th Special Forces Group, two from the Marine Corps, two from the Navy and one from the Air Force, said Malcom, a spokesman for US Southern Command, which oversees forces in Central and South America.

As the investigation was still underway, the spokesman

could not say why another suspect had emerged.

An Air Force colonel in charge of the investigation flew to Colombia on Monday to gather facts in the case and was due return to the United States probably over the weekend. He then will interview the suspects in the case, Malcom said.

The military suspects, all enlisted personnel, were helping with preparations for President Barack Obama's visit to Cartagena for the Summit of the Americas last weekend.

Eleven Secret Service agents and the military service members are accused of consorting with prostitutes at a hotel.

About 20 prostitutes were allegedly brought to the hotel, according to an account from Senator Susan Collins, who was briefed by the Secret Service.

Lawmakers say the incident raised serious questions about security and the work of the Secret Service, the president's elite protection squad.

NY police, FBI excavate missing child basement

NEW YORK (AFP) - New York police and FBI agents equipped with jackhammers yesterday excavated a basement in the trendy SoHo neighborhood looking for clues to the unsolved disappearance 33 years ago of a sweet-faced, six-year-old boy.

Police shut off two blocks of Prince Street and erected a blue tarpaulin tent over the entrance to the basement where detectives hope finally to break the case of Etan Patz, whose vanishing on his way to school in 1979 shattered an era of innocence for American parents.

Between 40 and 50 personnel took part in the operation, New York Police Department spokesman Paul Browne said. Officers with "FBI" or "NYPD" emblazoned on their backs could be seen hauling debris from the basement into dumpsters shielded by more of the blue tarpaulin.

"Today will be a much more comprehensive effort. We'll be digging into concrete,

digging into drywall, getting into the nuts and bolts," FBI spokesman Tim Flannely told AFP. "This is the second day. We're going to go through the weekend and possibly into next week."

A crowd of journalists and curious passersby waited for news behind rows of metal barricades. A dozen satellite TV trucks were parked in nearby narrow streets, making the crossroads resemble a movie set more than a crime scene.

The grim focus of this upheaval was the 13-by-62 foot (four by 20 meter) basement below the sidewalk outside a chic accessories store called Wink.

Although the blue tent concealed the basement entrance, FBI agent J. Peter Donald showed AFP a picture on his cellphone of the cast-iron staircase surrounded by black-painted railings.

That iron work is the kind of period detail that has made SoHo one of the most pictur-

esque, high-rent pieces of real estate in the world.

But three decades ago, officials say, this may have been the spot where a young life was snuffed out and the body hidden, leading to years of anguish for the parents.

The case was a media sensation at the time and Patz, angel-faced with light hair, became the first child to have his image put on the back of milk cartons, appealing for information on his whereabouts. That fame also heralded the end of old-style, relaxed parenting.

Considered unsolvable, the case became dormant and Patz was declared legally dead. But two years back, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance reopened the file at the request of the boy's parents.

Recently, police brought a cadaver dog, trained to sniff the minutest traces of dead bodies, to the basement. Browne said the team "had a hit."

No hope of survivors in Pakistan plane crash

PAKISTAN, HUSSAIN ABAD: AFP photo shows Pakistani soldiers stand next to debris in Hussain Abad after the crash of a Bhoja Air Boeing 737 plane on the outskirts of Islamabad yesterday.

Up to 130 people are feared dead after a Boeing 737 crashed while trying to land in bad weather near the Pakistani capital Islamabad yesterday, officials said.

The Bhoja Air flight from Karachi came down outside Islamabad's international airport, police official Fazle Akbar said, adding that emergency teams



have been sent to the site "There is no chance of any survivors. It will be only a miracle. The plane is totally destroyed," police official Fazle Akbar told AFP from

the crash site.

So far 110 bodies have been recovered from the crash site, Brigadier Sarfraz Ali, who is heading the recovery efforts, said.



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Russia condemns new Syrian sanctions planned by EU

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russia yesterday condemned as unacceptable a fresh round of sanctions being prepared by the European Union against the Syrian regime.

"Our position concerning such sanctions is well known," said foreign affairs ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashovich. "We judge them unacceptable from the point of view of international law."

Diplomats in Brussels had said earlier that the new sanctions would ban exports of luxury items and goods which can be used for internal repression.

"The sanctions are ready," said an EU diplomat who asked not to be named. The timing for their adoption however "will depend on the situation on the ground."

A decision could be made at talks in Luxembourg on Monday between foreign ministers from the 27 EU nations.

The EU a month ago tightened the noose at President Bashar al-Assad's family, slapping a travel ban and asset freeze on his wife, mother and sister in the 13th round of EU sanctions in a year.

His immediate family were among 12 people and two oil companies added to an existing EU blacklist totalling 126 people and 41 firms or utilities.

The new sanctions would concern luxury goods and so-called dual-use goods which can be used for internal repression or for the manufacturing of equipment used for internal repression.



Colombia says US sex scandal ad 'disrespectful'

BOGOTA (AFP) - Colombia yesterday denounced as "disrespectful" a US airline promotion seeking to profit from the sex scandal involving American Secret Service agents and prostitutes in Cartagena.

Colombian tourism minister Sergio Diaz called on Spirit Air to take down the In-

ternet ad featuring bikini-clad women and the phrases "more bang for your buck" and "upfront payment is required" to promote its fares from the tourist hotspot.

"Minister Diaz made it clear that such advertising is disrespectful to the country and especially to Cartagena," a statement from his office

said.

Diaz said the use of such advertising "is, to say the least, inappropriate and improper."

The comments came amid a probe into the use of prostitutes by members of the Secret Service who were preparing to protect President Barack Obama when he at-

tended the Summit of the Americas in the Colombian city.

A dispute over payment involving one of the women led police to be called to the hotel and unleashed the biggest scandal in the presidential bodyguard's nearly 140-year history.

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Health & Living

Heists, overdoses rise after Canada bans painkiller

OTTAWA (AFP) - Canadian police and doctors reported a rash of pharmacy robberies and a rise in overdoses after the prescription drug OxyContin was pulled from circulation last month.

Addicts and drug dealers stepped up raids on drug stores at gunpoint in search of the last doses of the painkiller or turned to alternative mind benders with sometimes deadly results.

Meanwhile, detox clinics with few beds are being overwhelmed by demand for services, as some optimistically viewed the Canadian ban on OxyContin as an opportunity to kick their addiction and asked for help.

Pharmacy robberies are already up, so far to 38 in the capital Ottawa this year. That is nearly as many as the 40 drug store robberies in all of 2011.

Ottawa police staff sergeant Mike Haarbosch said the dwindling supply of OxyContin and continued high demand is part of the reason for the increase in robberies.

Purdue Pharma stopped manufacturing OxyContin in Canada in March and replaced it with a new drug called OxyNeo that is harder to abuse because it cannot be easily crushed or injected to get high.

Although no longer prescribed, some pharmacies still have small quantities of OxyContin left over in their stores.

"The persons doing the rob-

beries are either feeding their own addiction or turning the drugs around for resale on the street to people who are feeding that addiction," said Haarbosch.

"Overdoses are another big concern with people moving to other substances, especially Fentanyl because it's much stronger than OxyContin and it's very hard to determine the dose that you're injecting because it's scraped off a patch," Shahin told AFP.

She pointed also to unknown health effects of injecting OxyNeo, a gel pill with identical chemical properties as OxyContin, into veins.

Two percent of adults in Ontario province, the Canadian epicenter of prescription drug abuse, or more than 250,000 people have reported using opiates for non-medical reasons in the past year, which is indicative of addiction, said Shahin.

When the OxyContin ban took effect on March 1, authorities braced for a withdrawal epidemic in many remote aboriginal communities, where as many as 80 percent of adults are hooked on prescription painkillers and few treatment options are available.

The drug is intended for relief of intense pain, by prescription only. But it had become widely available on bootleg markets throughout North America, particularly in Canada's native communities.

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Pre-abortion procedure raises ire of some in US

FALLS CHURCH (AFP) - Thousands of women arrive at health clinics across the United States every year, facing the heavy burden of ending pregnancies that were unplanned and unwanted.

But in a growing number of states, before being allowed to have an abortion, women are compelled to undergo a procedure that lets a medical professional hear the fetus's beating heart and describe details about its development.

Women's rights advocates say the unwanted and controversial medical procedures appear designed to convince them to keep the baby, and usurps from women the right to make a fundamental decision free from government interference.

"It's just an insult to women, purely an insult to women and to doctors," said Rosemary Coddling, director of the Falls Church Healthcare Center in suburban Virginia, a short drive from the US capital Washington.

Abortion rights advocates have expressed outrage over laws in several states -- and under consideration in others -- requiring women submit to an ultrasound examination before having an abortion.

Virginia last month became the eighth state to enact such a law, beginning July 1, a woman seeking to terminate a

pregnancy at Coddling's clinic for example will have to undergo a procedure in which a medical wand is rubbed over her abdomen to deliver an image of the fetus the woman is about to abort.

Opponents of the Virginia law were able to beat back an earlier version of the bill which would have required women to submit to an even more invasive ultrasound -- one in which an imaging device would be inserted into the vagina.

McDonnell, a Republican, said he agreed with the lawmakers who say the procedure ensures women are well-informed about the consequences of abortion.

The battle over the pre-abortion ultrasounds pits America's social conservatives against women's rights groups, in one of this country's longest running culture wars.

The polemic comes at a time when Democrats and Republicans have traded charges that the opposite side is waging a "War on Women," which is proving to be one of the 2012 presidential campaign's most contentious issues.

The controversy has flared just as other women's issues have become major focal points of the 2012 election, including a long-dormant debate over mothers who work versus those who stay at home,

and a discussion over women's access to contraception.

Opponents including the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL) predict negative fallout for politicians supporting the screenings.

Almost everywhere, women can refuse to see the fetuses and hear their hearts if they sign waivers, but they cannot avoid the ultrasound procedures.

An exception is Texas, where women are required to see and hear the pre-abortion fetuses. One woman, described the "nightmare" of the exam to the Texas Observer magazine.

The measure is one of many over the years that seek to chip away at abortion rights, which became legal after the US Supreme Court ruled in the 1973 Roe v. Wade case.

The Guttmacher Institute, a private research group, has tracked laws restricting abortion rights says 32 states forbid use of public funds to reimburse doctors who perform abortions, 46 allow health care institutions to refuse to perform abortions.

Other states meanwhile have tried -- without success so far -- to grant "personhood" to embryos, a move that would give unborn children rights.

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Sci-Tech

Nearly 60 archeological sites unearthed near Rio



RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Nearly 60 archeological sites dating back 6,000 years have been unearthed during construction of a road near Rio, an archaeologist said.

"Last week, we found a small stone well dating back to the (Portuguese) colonial period with clear water and we stopped work," said Jandira Neto, who led the 40-member team of the Brazilian Archaeology Institute (IAB) that made the discovery.

The archeologists unearthed very old vestiges such as "sambaquis" (shell mounds) of the various population groups who were scattered along the coast of the Americas 8,000 to 6,000 years ago, 2,000-year-old burial urns and ceramic pipes of Tupi-Guarani indigenous people as well as 19th century European crockery.

"The relics pointed to overlapping habitation. This shows that the European settlers occupied the same areas as the in-

digenous people. They thought that since people lived there, the land had to be good. They just seized indigenous lands and settled there," she added.

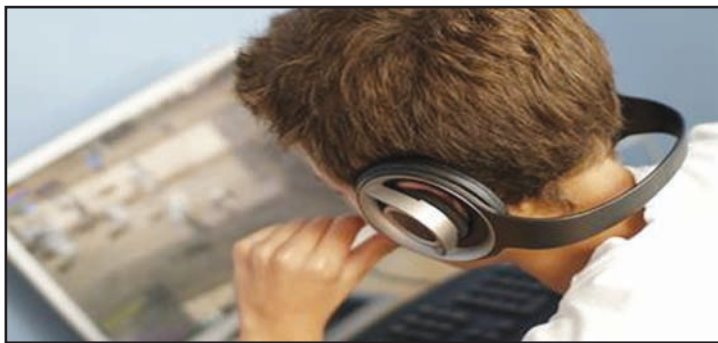
The history of the region -- crossed by the 70-kilometer (45 mile) road nicknamed "Metropolitan Arc" which runs from the industrial park in the northern Fluminense lowland to the western port of Itaguaí - had until now been known based on travel accounts from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

Now, archeologists scour the area and when they find something, the work stops.

The archeological bonanza is causing a major headache for engineers of Rio state's public works secretariat.

The road project initially was scheduled to be completed in 2011 at a cost of \$511 million, but it has been delayed to 2013 because of the work stoppages.

Computer therapy helps young out of depression: study



PARIS (AFP) - A computer game designed to lift teenagers out of depression is as effective as one-on-one counselling, New Zealand doctors reported on Thursday in the British Medical Journal (BMJ).

Researchers at the University of Auckland tested an interactive 3-D fantasy game called SPARX on a 94 youngsters diagnosed with depression whose average age was

15 and a half.

SPARX invites a user to take on a series of seven challenges over four to seven weeks in which an avatar has to learn to deal with anger and hurt feelings and swap negative thoughts for helpful ones.

Used for three months, SPARX was at least as effective as face-to-face conventional counselling, according to several depression rating scales.

In addition, 44 percent of the SPARX group who carried out at least four of the seven challenges recovered completely. In the conventional treatment group, only 26 percent recovered fully.

"Use of the programme resulted in a clinically significant reduction in depression, anxiety and hopelessness, and an improvement in quality of life," according to the study led by Sally Merry, an associate professor at the Department of Psychological Medicine.

The adolescents also gave a high rating to SPARX, saying they liked being able to use it at home and to learn at their own pace.

Eighty percent said they would recommend the computer therapy to others, although the treatment-as-usual group had similarly high approval ratings.

'Chinese' hackers deface Philippine website

(AFP) - Hackers claiming to come from China defaced the website of the Philippines' top university on Friday to assert their country's claim over the hotly disputed South China Sea, the government said.

The foreign department, which has been leading the government's response over its increasingly tense rift with China, immediately called for an investigation into the attack on the University of the Philippines website.

A screenshot of the defaced website, www.up.edu.ph, showed a map with Chinese script that highlighted islands in the South China Sea that are claimed by the Philippines and

China.

"We come from China! Huangyan Island is Ours," the map's caption read.

Huangyan is the Chinese name for the Scarborough Shoal, where the two countries have had vessels stationed for nearly two weeks in a standoff to assert their rival claims to the area.

Foreign department spokesman Raul Hernandez suggested the hacking could be linked to the standoff.

The university temporarily shut the site down after the attack was detected on Friday, Jason Chao, network engineer of the school's computer centre, told AFP.



HANOVER : Employees of German car maker Volkswagen work on the company's battery-powered concept car NILS on April 20, 2012 on the fair grounds in Hanover, central Germany, where preparations are under way for the Hannover Messe technology fair. According to the organisers, focusing on trends and solutions for sustainable industrial production, "greentelligence" will be the recurrent theme throughout this year's fair edition running from April 23 to 27, 2012. Around 5,000 exhibitors from various industrial sectors will showcase their products. China is the fair's partner country in 2012.

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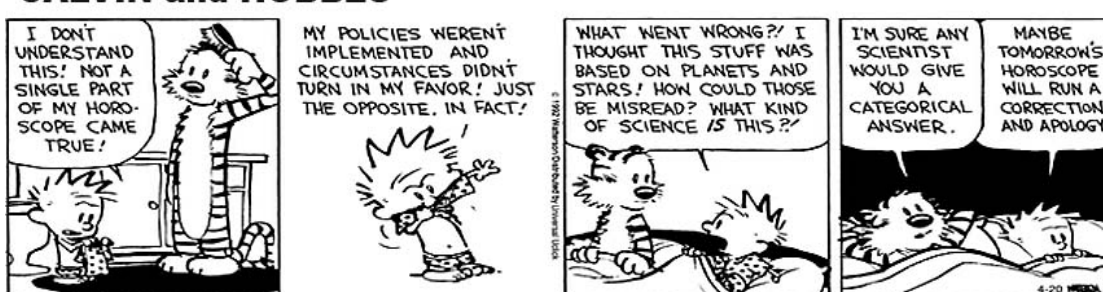
PICKLES



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ACROSS

1. Roger Rabbit, e.g.
5. ESE's opp.
8. Catch a criminal
11. British princess
12. Ditty
13. ___ boots (hyph.)
14. One of Fergie's daughters
16. At full volume
17. Assigned duties
18. "Yes!"
19. Not attending
22. Eastern "truth"
24. Cargo
25. Messenger of the gods
28. Male cat
29. Shirley Temple film
31. Baseball's Durocher
33. Military doctors
35. Country singer Jackson
36. GI's address (abbr.)
37. First-born child
39. Author Wister
42. Slot machine part
44. "Shrek" star Cameron
45. Enthusiastic responses
49. Actress

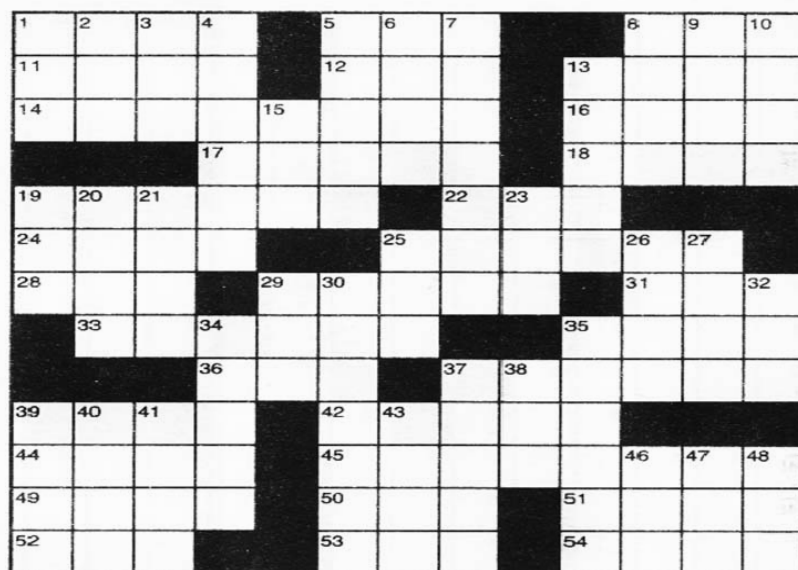
50. Patton's rank (abbr.)
51. Gratuitous
52. Tricky
53. Decade segments (abbr.)
54. Brisk gait

DOWN

1. Bill
2. United
3. Out ___ limb (2 wds.)
4. Caught
5. Belt locale
6. Shaver's mishap
7. Took control

8. Niche
9. Water, in Madrid
10. What some shampoos promise
13. Dimness
15. Flowed
19. Model Carol
20. Cannon noise
21. Consistent
23. Onassis, for short
25. That fella's
26. Model Macpherson
27. Continent separators
29. With it
30. Environ-

- mental science
32. Toronto's province (abbr.)
34. "Who's the Boss?" actor
35. Without purpose
37. Dale or Linda
38. Allow
39. Tribute poems
40. Smith of "I, Robot"
41. "___ does it!"
43. At all times
46. Hockey's Bobby
47. Recent (prefix)
48. Tennis unit



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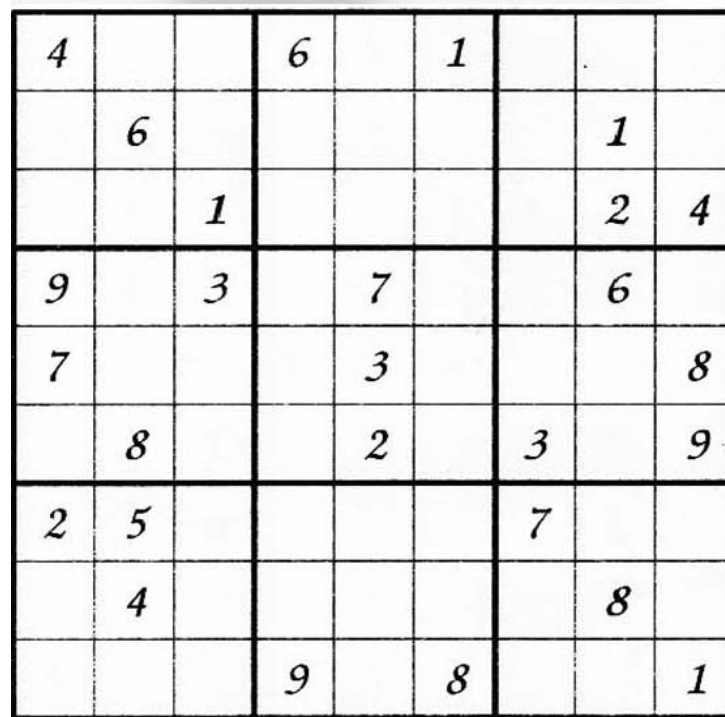
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

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8	6	5	2	9	1	6	7	3
9	6	2	1	7	8	5	3	4
6	2	9	7	3	1	4	8	5
8	5	1	6	4	7	9	2	3
2	9	4	5	1	8	3	6	7
7	2	9	1	8	5	1	6	4
4	1	6	7	2	5	9	8	3
5	8	1	6	9	2	7	4	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

Big manufacturers more likely to embrace "Made in USA": survey

NEW YORK - Large U.S. manufacturers are much more likely than their smaller peers to move production to the United States from China, according to a survey. Labor costs and the quality of goods are the top reasons for companies to consider so-called "re-shoring," with some companies considering the United States a de facto low-cost country because of its high unemployment, according to the survey by the Boston Consulting Group.

It found that 37 percent of all U.S.-based manufacturing executives either plan to or are actively considering moving production from China. That rises to 48 percent among companies with more than \$10 billion in revenues, the poll found.

Majorities of those polled said they expected wage costs in China to continue to rise, and said sourcing there is more costly than it appears on paper because of factors such as proximity to customers and the ease

of doing business.

Makers of rubber and plastic products are especially likely to consider re-shoring. Companies that make computer equipment, metal products and transportation goods are less likely to do so.

"The economics of manufacturing are swinging in favor of the U.S.," said Harold Sirkin, a BCG senior partner and co-author of the study. BCG says a more competitive U.S. manufacturing base could create up to 3 million jobs by the end of the decade.

Large companies have more plants whose production can be moved and better access to financing, Sirkin said. Among recent examples of what he called an accelerating trend, Sirkin cited Ford Motor, NCR, MasterLock, SlekAudio, Chesapeake Bay Candle, and Farouk Systems.

The United States is becoming a low-cost developed-world country, according to BCG,

with wages typically below those in Western Europe or Japan. More European and Japanese companies are likely to export from U.S. plants.

Some companies, including General Electric Co and Boeing Co, have said they went too far in moving operations out of the United States and that wage differences are narrowing. GE has moved much of its appliance manufacturing from Mexico and China to Kentucky.

The re-shoring trend could be slowed or reversed, BCG says, if, for example, the value of the U.S. dollar rises sharply. Others say rising investment in overseas plants suggests that re-shoring companies are exceptions.

U.S. manufacturing shed about 16 percent of its jobs, or 2 million, during the 2007-2009 recession, according to the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, which has said a recent rebound in factory employment may not last.

US penny sells for \$1.15 million

CHICAGO (AFP) - Talk about a pretty penny. A 1792-dated copper cent has sold for \$1.15 million, a US auction house said yesterday.

The experimental coin with a silver center was one of the first ever struck at the United States mint and is one of just 14 known to have survived.

It was purchased in 1974 for \$105,000 and was sold to a dealer representing a group of investors at an auction held in conjunction with the annual Central States Numismatic Society convention being held in a Chicago suburb.

"Some 1792-dated cents have a silver plug as a proposed way to overcome a flaw in the Mint Act of 1792," said Todd Imhof, vice president of Texas-based Heritage Auctions.

"That congressional law would have made pennies of the era too large and heavy for



practical use," he added. "So the mint's chief coiner suggested making a smaller sized coin using a tiny silver plug with three-fourths of a cent

worth of silver and a quarter-cent's worth copper surrounding it."

Congress then reduced the official weight of the cent, making an all-copper coin more practical. The first early American cents were struck for actual circulation in 1793 were a little larger than a modern quarter coin.

The experimental coin is graced with a portrait of "Miss Liberty" and the inscription "Liberty Parent of Society and Industry" on the front and a wreath and the words "United States of America One Cent" on the back.

IMF raises over \$430 bn for crisis fund

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The IMF said yesterday it had raised "over" \$430 billion for its "global firewall" to intervene in possible economic crises, with emerging giants Russia and China adding significant sums to the pool.

"We have commitments that are north of \$430 billion. That almost doubles the lending capacity of the fund," IMF managing director Christine Lagarde said at a news conference.

She said that the effort "signals the strong resolve of the international community to secure global financial stability

and put the world economic recovery on a sounder footing."

Some \$72 billion in pledges by emerging giants China and Russia together with other unnamed countries put the IMF over its \$400 billion target announced at the crisis lender's annual spring meeting in Washington.

"These resources will be available for the whole membership of the IMF, and not earmarked for any particular region," the IMF said in a statement, reflecting members' concerns that the money would be destined for more bailouts of eurozone countries.



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Debt rescue writedown hits Greek banks hard

ATHENS (AFP) - Greek banks yesterday reported massive losses for last year as a debt writedown agreed as part of a second major bailout for the stricken country devastated their already under-pressure balance sheets.

National Bank of Greece, the largest lender, said it suffered a 2011 net loss of 12.3 billion euros (\$16 billion) after taking a charge of 10.75 billion euros on the writedown, along with other provisions and charges due to "the extremely harsh economic climate in Greece."

The writedown was agreed as part of a second international rescue package for Greece in which private investors took new government bonds for old, resulting in a combined debt reduction worth some 100 billion euros.

A first rescue totalling 110 billion euros in May 2010 mounted by the EU and the International Monetary Fund failed to halt Greece's slide into default, forcing it to seek additional help.

Alpha Bank meanwhile reported a 2011 net loss of 3.8 billion euros, which pushed its core Tier 1 capital reserve ratio -- a key measure of financial

health -- down more than eight percentage points to 3.0 percent.

International regulators now want the major European banks to have a core Tier 1 ratio of 9.0 percent, while the Bank of Greece prefers an even higher reading of 10 percent, meaning that Alpha Bank will have to raise huge amounts in fresh capital to comply. Alpha Bank said that after the writedown charge it had a 2011 net loss of 3.81 billion euros but chalked up a net profit of 21.4 million euros, down 75.1 percent, if the loss was excluded.

Eurobank, which was supposed to have merged with Alpha Bank, suffered a 2011 net loss of 5.5 billion euros (\$7.15 billion) after taking a massive charge of 4.6 billion euros on the debt writedown.

Last month, Alpha Bank said it wanted to scrap merger talks with Eurobank because of the impact the debt writedown agreement would have on both lenders. The merger plan, originally slated for completion in December, was designed to create Greece's largest lender with a planned capital increase of 3.9 billion euros backed by Qatari fund Paramount Services Holding.

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Current as of:	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
04/20/2012				
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.78	1.80	1.82
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.91
Switzerland	CHF	195.38	196.10	196.90
Netherlands	EUR	232.83	234.96	237.32
Sweden	SEK	25.59	26.31	27.11
Denmark	DKK	30.62	31.34	32.14
Norway	NOK	30.17	30.89	31.69
Japan	JPY	215.96	217.94	220.13
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YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

BOSC ADAM HAT
UHUH NOTE ISA
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BOUNDER KEEPS
EDS MEN
TEASE STREETS
NEVE MEA HERO
TRAFFIC DALES
OAT BIC
ANJOU WEEKDAY
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Madonna charity reaffirms commitment to Malawi



BLANTYRE (AFP) - American pop diva Madonna's Malawi charity on Friday pledged to continue its work as the country makes a new beginning under President Joyce Banda.

"This is a critical time for Malawi as President Banda attempts to steer Malawi back toward more successful times. It is also a crucial moment for the friends of Malawi to continue to show their support," Raising Malawi said in a statement.

"Raising Malawi remains a committed friend to Malawi and has expanded support in 2012 into the area of education."

Banda was sworn in on April 7 as Malawi's first female president after the sudden death of President Bingu wa Mutharika two days earlier.

Raising Malawi in January announced it would build 10 rural schools, changing focus after abandoning a failed \$15 million-project to set up a girls academy.

The plans angered education officials in the country over not being consulted on the change of focus.

Ground was broken on the first school in central Malawi in February and two more schools are set to be finished later this year, it said.

Immediately after coming to power Banda moved to heal breaches with donors that had been alienated by Mutharika's oppressive economic policies.

Several had suspended funding, including the United States, the IMF, and Britain which previously contributed 19 million pounds (\$30 million, 23 million euro) in aid a year.

Madonna, whose adoptions of two children from Malawi were embroiled in controversy, has not visited the country since she dropped the academy plans last year.

The singer has poured millions into helping children in Malawi, where 39 percent of the population lives on less than \$1 a day.

Colombia club shies away from secret service scandal

CARTAGENA, Colombia (AFP) - The Pley Club always prided itself on discretion, but now the world knows that it was in this Colombian brothel that Barack Obama's security detail went missing for prostitutes.

After reportedly reserving space at the Hotel Caribe, the advance security team of the US Secret Service headed out to the white building in the seaside resort of Cartagena, days ahead of Obama's arrival for a Latin America summit.

The next morning, a dispute over payment involving one of the women led police to be called to the hotel and unleashed the biggest scandal in the presidential bodyguard's nearly 140-year history.

The New York Times on Wednesday published comments from the 24-year-old single mother at the center of the hoopla, saying a Secret Service agent had reneged on a deal to pay her \$800 for the night and ended up paying only \$30.

Bouncers at the door of the Pley Club expressed as much shock as most Americans about the growing furor, but for a different reason -- they viewed the allegations as an unfounded insult to their professionalism.

"You are wasting your time. The Pley Club is not the place where the security agents went," one of them told AFP.

But widespread reports, first divulged by ABC, say 11 agents and 10 military personnel did go the brothel, drinking expensive liquor and bragging about working



General view of the 'Pley club' night club in Cartagena on April 18, 2012, where US Secret Service bodyguards would have hired a group of prostitutes earlier this month.

for Obama, before picking up around 20 prostitutes from the Pley Club and other night spots to take back to their hotel.

A similar dispute over money is said to have erupted outside the Pley Club with police reportedly being called to contain a scuffle on the street after a disagreement over the bill.

The US Secret Service is investigating the incident, and US lawmakers briefed on their findings have confirmed many of the details about what took place, but the bouncers at the Pley Club say the story doesn't

"The woman who made a scandal for those gringos would not have been able to leave here. None of our employees leaves unless the client has paid for the entire service," another bouncer said.

The club's doors remain open, with tourists arriving by taxi every night and many of them staying until the wee hours of the morning, a frequent visitor told AFP, asking that his name not be printed.

The interior resembles that of any nightclub, with rows

of tables surrounding a stage on which dancers shimmy through stripteases every half hour. "As the night goes on, the show gets more intense," the same customer said.

The venue can hold some 150 people at a time, and offers individual rooms where the prostitutes receive clients.

Maria Mendoza, who lives near the club, said it's one of the most popular haunts in the seaside resort city.

"There are plenty of cars with tinted windows that drive up. People come and go, and on the weekends it's packed," she said.

Americans have expressed outrage over the scandal, with critics saying it confirms the long-rumored "wheels up, rings off" reputation of the Secret Service.

But here in Colombia, where prostitution is legal in designated areas, the moral aspect has raised few eyebrows.

"Prostitution is only punished when it involves minors," said Pilar Rueda, who is in charge of women's issues for a civil liberties group.

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The images released by Heritage Auctions, show the front and back of a 1792 US penny which sold at auction on April 20, 2012, for 1.15 million USD. The unusual coin was auctioned at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center in suburban Chicago. Officials with Heritage Auctions say Kevin Lipton of Beverly Hills, California, bought the penny on behalf of a group of unnamed investors. The winning bid was one million, but the investors also must pay the auction house's 15 percent commission. Heritage Executive Vice President Todd Imhof says the coin is made with a copper ring that surrounds a small plug of silver, which was added to make the penny heavier.

AFP PHOTO

Bee Gee Barry sings to sick brother in hospital



A file picture taken on May 6, 1997 shows the music group The Bee Gees consisting of brothers (From left) Robin, Barry and Maurice Gibb appearing backstage after they were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame during a ceremony at a Cleveland's OH hotel.

BELFAST (AFP) - Robin Gibb's Bee Gee brother Barry has been singing to the cancer-battling star as the family tries to help him come out of a coma, his wife said.

Gibb, 62, has contracted pneumonia and is in a coma, his website confirmed on April 14. He is in hospital in west London.

The British star's wife Dwina told her local weekly newspaper that the singer's three children have been playing music to their father to "try and bring him back to us".

"His brother Barry, his wife Linda and son Stephen came over from America. Barry was singing to him. Thousands of people are saying prayers every day," she told the Impartial Reporter newspaper, based in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland.

The Bee Gees -- twins Robin and the late Maurice Gibb and their elder brother Barry, 65 -- are among the biggest-selling groups of all time.

Robin Gibb had bowel surgery 18 months ago but a tumour was found and he was diagnosed with cancer of the colon and the liver.

Back in February, Gibb said he had made a "spectacular" re-

covery from his treatment, sparking hopes that his cancer was in remission.

Gibb was too ill to attend last week's premiere of his first classical work, "The Titanic Requiem", composed with his son Robin-John to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ship's sinking.

Gibb had been due to perform in person the song "Don't Cry Alone" at the central London premiere.

His wife said she had taken some inspiration from the song.

"A husband is taken by the sea, and with all the power of his soul he calls out to his wife not to cry alone. He reassures her that his spirit will always guide her and their children, and begs that she never doubt him," she said.

"He is only a whisper away. She only has to think of him and he will be there. She need never cry alone again."

Gibb's website is down due to the volume of traffic. Visitors are directed to his Facebook page, where fans have been leaving messages of support.

Dwina Gibb said she was "very grateful" for the good wishes.

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morning "Kaffie Klatch" and triple points when using their membership cards.



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keep veteran high-rollers happy, as well as periodic special events that attract an international crowd; stop by and check their schedule.

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SPORTS

Tennis: Emotional Djokovic, Nadal into Monte Carlo semis



Netherlands' Robin Haase returns to Serbia's Novak Djokovic.



Britain's Andy Murray serves to Czech Tomas Berdych

MONTE CARLO (AFP) - Novak Djokovic kept his emotions in check following the death of his grandfather to reach the Monte Carlo Masters semi-finals on Friday, beating Dutchman Robin Haase 6-4, 6-2.

The Serb was joined in the last four by seven-time champion Rafael Nadal who eased past Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland 7-5, 6-4, winning his 40th consecutive match in the principality, a run dating

back to 2005.

Djokovic will face Tomas Berdych in the semi-finals after the Czech knocked out British third seed Andy Murray 6-7 (4/7), 6-2, 6-3.

Nadal took his record over Wawrinka to a perfect 8-0 and will next face Gilles Simon who beat fellow Frenchman and fourth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-5, 6-4.

Djokovic's concentration wandered during his win in 77 minutes, losing serve in

the first game but winning the next four.

He broke Haase to win the opener and took a 4-0 lead in the second only to find himself drifting as he lost the next two service games.

But the top seed prevailed on a second match point with a break of his Dutch opponent as Haase drove a leaping backhand into the net.

"Under the circumstances, I played well. My emotions were up and down, and you could see that on the court," said Djokovic.

Murray could only be frustrated with himself after a performance in which Berdych managed 16 break point chances and converted on five.

Murray had one opportunity on the Czech's serve but was unable to take advantage.

Berdych girded for a battle on the clay under sunny skies after losing the 74-minute opening set in a tiebreaker.

The former Wimbledon finalist took his chances and profitted from a Murray miscue in a struggle lasting for just over two and three-quarter hours.

"I had to stay in the fight after the first set," said the Czech. "I had some bad luck in the tie-breaker, but my game started getting stronger, saying my best tennis on clay," said the Monte Carlo semi-finalist from 2007 who now leads Murray 4-2 in their career series.

Athletics: Former world champ Semenya seals Olympics place

PRETORIA (AFP) - Former world champion Caster Semenya won an 800 metres race in one minute 59.58 seconds Friday to secure a place in the

South African team for the Olympic Games.

Semenya is considered the best South African prospect for gold at the London Games and

relished running on a University of Pretoria track where she was boosted by a fast start from Namibian Herunga Tjipekapor.

"I am very happy with the time and now I know what my plans for the European season are. I do not have to rush now, I must just be patient and wait for the Olympics.

It was third time lucky for the 21-year-old, who conquered the world in Berlin three years ago but was then forced to take gender tests amid accusations from rivals.

She failed to better the 1:59.90 qualifying mark during two previous attempts in South Africa this year, most recently at the national championships

in wind-swept Port Elizabeth last weekend.

All South African Olympic hopefuls must match or better the qualifying mark twice -- once at home and once abroad -- before June 30 to be chosen for the London Games.

Semenya got her 'abroad' time in South Korean city Daegu last year when finishing second behind Russian Mariya Savinova in defence of the world title after a long spell being hampered by a lower back injury.

The former world champion changed coaches last year, replacing Michael Seme with ex-Olympic 800-metre gold medalist Maria Mutola from neighbouring Mozambique.

Other South African athletes who have booked places in London are 400-metre hurdlers LJ van Zyl and Cornel Fredericks, women's javelin thrower Sunette Viljoen and decathlete Willem Coertzen.

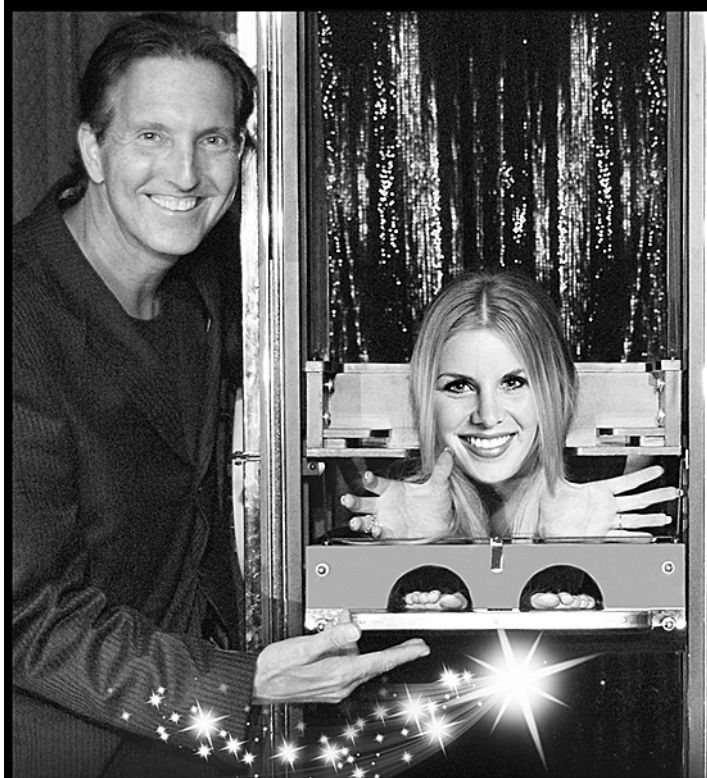
Long jumper Khotso Mokoena, whose silver was the only medal won by South Africa at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, ended months of misery by bettering the Games qualifying mark with a leap of 8.29 metres.

But his successful first attempt at the national meet was followed by two no-jumps and three abortive efforts, leaving him needing to better the Games distance again before June 30 to make the team.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

NBA players association tries to force Fisher to resign as president



It has been a tough season for Derek Fisher. Traded to Oklahoma City from the Lakers, where he won five NBA championship rings.

Serving as president of the players association during the polarizing lockout. And now he's fighting to keep that union position.

The disagreement began when Fisher reportedly sought to conduct a financial review of the NBPA and Hunter. The two union leaders reportedly had differences of opinion on key issues during the 2011 lockout, particularly in the months leading up to the eventual negotiation

of a new collective bargaining agreement.

The veteran guard for the Oklahoma City Thunder has been the union's president since 2006.

The NBPA said in a statement on Friday that the executive committee voted 8-0 on Wednesday that it had lost confidence in Fisher's ability to lead. Yahoo! Sports reported that Fisher was refusing to step down.

"The Executive Committee based its decision on numerous instances over the past six months, where Fisher engaged in conduct detrimental to the union, including acting in contravention of the players' best interests, during collective bargaining, declining to follow the NBPA Constitution, and failing to uphold the duties of the Union President," the statement said.

Football: Win or bust in Clasico, says Barca boss Guardiola

MADRID (AFP) - Barcelona boss Pep Guardiola admitted that defeat in today's Clasico against Real Madrid at Camp Nou would crown his bitter rivals as Spanish champions.

"La Liga is in Real's hands. If they win today or draw, it's all over. If we want to continue to believe in our chances, then only a victory will be good enough," said Guardiola on Friday.

Defending champions Barcelona are four points behind Real with five matches left, but Guardiola was keen to stress that his team deserve credit for the way they have eaten into their rivals' lead in recent weeks.

"It wasn't so long ago that we were a long way behind, between 10 and 13 points. Now to be in this position, to still be alive in the champi-

onship, to work so hard, it's luxury."

Guardiola added that he expected Real to press for the three points on Saturday.

"They will come to win. I would be very surprised if they thought that a draw would be enough," he said.

"Real have great qualities, can play defensively or on attack. They are a little like Chelsea (who beat Barca 1-0 in the Champions League in midweek), physically they are very strong and very quick on the counter-attack."

Barcelona could be without Chilean striker Alexis Sanchez for the match who suffered a right thigh injury in the Champions League semi-final, first leg defeat at Chelsea.

"We will see what he is like tomorrow, but at the moment he is very doubtful," said Guardiola.

Huge demo as Bahrain prince continued from page 16

As second practice continued, Formula One's chief executive and commercial ringmaster Bernie Ecclestone appeared unmoved about escalating safety concerns.

He said he did not understand why Force India was so worried about safety, adding that he had personally offered to drive with the team from the circuit if they wanted reassurance.

McLaren team principal Martin Whitmarsh said all 10,500 seats in the main stand had been sold "which shows that the race is welcomed by many people at all levels of society. But often in this type of situation the voice of the majority is not heard."

Witnesses reported overnight violence in Shiite villages far from the Sakhir circuit.

The protesters hurled petrol bombs at security forces, witnesses said.

The demonstrations were "a message to those taking part in the F1 race to bring their attention to human rights violations in Bahrain," Maskati told AFP, adding that "95 people have been arrested since April 14."

Amid unease among Grand Prix participants, with Force India's British driver Paul Di Resta acknowledging it was an "uncomfortable situation," Prince Salman accepted that some F1 teams had safety and security concerns.

The February 14 Youth Movement has called on social networking sites for "three days of rage" to coincide with the race.

Al-Wefaq had called for a week of daily protests during the Grand Prix to focus media attention on their long-standing demands for reforms.

At a news conference on Friday, the head of the Ferrari team and Force India's number two expressed hopes the race would contribute to reconciliation in Bahrain.

Force India's Fernley said "hopefully, the Formula One programme has brought the world's media here, it gives a good platform for debate and hopefully it will help with the healing process for Bahrain, and that's why we're here."

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Huge demo as Bahrain prince insists F1 is on

MANAMA (AFP) - Thousands of people protested in a Shiite suburb of Bahrain's capital on Formula One practice day as the Gulf kingdom's crown prince insisted Sunday's race would go ahead to avoid "empowering extremists."

Demonstrators gathered late Friday afternoon in the Budaya area four kilometres (2.5 miles) west of Manama chanting "Down with the dictatorship!" and "Revolt until victory!" witnesses said.

Earlier, the crown prince ruled out cancelling the event.

"I think cancelling just empowers extremists," Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa said during a media briefing at the Sakhir circuit.

His remarks came after Force India said that, "for logistical reasons," it would not take part in Friday's second practice "to ensure the most competitive performance in FP3, qualifying and the race."

Earlier, deputy team principal Bob Fernley told Autosport magazine they were considering curtailing practice in order to return to their hotel before dark but that they would not miss qualification on today's or Sunday's race.

Four Force India team members were caught up in a confrontation between protesters and police on Wednesday when a petrol bomb exploded near their car.

Two team members chose to leave Bahrain on Thursday.

And the Sauber team confirmed on Friday that they drove through a similar incident the previous day, but that none of the 12 mechanics in an unmarked mini-bus was hurt.

continues on page 15

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Shark kills bodyboarding champ

JOHANNESBURG- South African champion bodyboarder David Lilienfeld, who was killed by a 13-foot-long great white shark off the coast of Kogel Bay yesterday died doing what he loved.

David, 20, was body boarding in the Indian Ocean at around midday when the 13ft beast struck.

The shark reportedly bit



him at least three times severed his right leg at the hip.

He was helped by his brother and friends to nearby rocks but died before paramedics could reach him.

National Sea Rescue Institute spokesman Craig Lambison said the victim "sustained complete amputation of his right leg, below the hip." The Sydney Morning Herald reported.

The leg has not been recovered.